



## **Kansas Disability/Violence Awareness Committee**

Working to provide awareness, education and the tools to decrease violence against persons with disabilities.

September 10, 2003  
Meeting Minutes  
1:30-3:30 Langston Hughes Room  
Topeka/Shawnee County Library

**Present:** Monica Brede (KDHE), Marilee Brown (KCSDV), Audrey Phillip (Three Rivers), Evelyn Harden (The Whole Person), Jonathan Lyle (The Whole Person), Vern Norwood (DOA), and Angie Rienking (SACK)

### **Grant report and Successes!**

The train the trainer workshop took place in August. Representatives from each of the target communities attended. The first day presenters from Austin, Safe Place discussed issues regarding a person with a disability being victimized by violence or sexual assault. The barriers they face and what WE can do about it. The second day focused on collaboration. Sandy Barnett from KCSDV presented on the history and philosophy of the Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault movement. Stephanie Sanford from KACIL presented on the history and philosophy of the Disability movement. They collaborated together and showed the amazing similarities in time, location and philosophies, which is ending oppression of women and people with disabilities. The participants spent the second half of the day collaborating with in their own communities. They discussed needs and barriers. These work groups accomplished an impressive amount of work identifying and reducing local barriers to services. Each of the communities then set a date for their next meeting. Marilee and Monica will be attending each of the community meetings.

A list serve was started for the participants to continue to collaborate and discuss issues that may arise.

Marilee Brown (KCSDV), Stephanie Sanford (KACIL), and Monica Brede (KDHE) attended Spot Light training in Sacramento, CA, September 3-5. Many recipients of ACCESS grants similar to our grant attended. We were able to discuss obstacles and learn from one another. Most of the grantees that attended are doing projects very similar to our Kansas grant. A large number of people with disabilities attended these meetings. This diversity of people's accessibility needs offered us valuable information on how to plan for a meeting that is open to everyone who attends.

The website is in progress and can be viewed at [www.kdhe.state.ks.us/dva](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/dva). The shell for each of the links is there. We are gathering information, putting it in an accessible format, and adding it to the web site. If you have information that you think is useful and you would like it on the website, please e-mail it to [mbrede@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:mbrede@kdhe.state.ks.us). Websites are always a work in progress. All comments, good or constructive, are welcome to the above e-mail address.

**Partner's report:** Dan Petersen, Monica Brede and Marilee Brown have been working with a graphic designer to develop a brochure that will be distributed through out the state were people with disabilities and victims of Domestic Violence might see them. We plan to put these brochures in: doctor offices, Vocational Rehabilitation Offices, ILC's, DV/SA agencies, public transportation sites, community resource centers, etc. Once it is in its final stages we will submit it to the Steering Committee and the office of VAWA to be approved for printing.

**Collaboration for October:**

October is Disability Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness month. Some exciting things are happing throughout the state. For example: Hutchinson's Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Agency and Prairie Independent Living Resource Center together is having a Dinner and Jazz festival in the park on October 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the month of awareness of both movements. There will be more details posted on the website. Everyone around the state is invited. We challenge everyone to get involved and work with your community in both efforts.

Is you website and educational material available in an accessible format. To check your web site go to [www.watchfire.com](http://www.watchfire.com) to run a check. There is no charge for this service.

**Other Discussion:**

The steering committee again discussed potential areas of interest beyond the grant. The general feeling seemed to be that we want to make sure we are on stable and solid ground with the grant before moving on to another topic. As the grant grows, other needs will become clearer.

**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2003**  
**1:30-3:30 Langston Hughes Room**  
**Topeka/Shawnee County Library**